

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicant basically:

1. Amends the Title.
2. Amends claims 8 and 10-13 without prejudice or disclaimer.
3. Cancels claims 7, 9 and 14-21 without prejudice or disclaimer.
4. Respectfully traverses all objections and rejections.

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 21 stands objected-to as containing certain informalities. Claim 10 stands objected-to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 7-9 and 11-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakai et al (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0034713) in view of Takaba et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0022617). Applicant respectfully traverses all objections and rejections. Without acquiescing in any objection or rejection, claims 8 and 10-13 have been amended, and claims 7, 9 and 14-21 have been canceled. The following discussion is directed to the claims in their current form.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Office Action at 7. Without acquiescing in any objection or rejection as to any of the claims, claim 10 has been amended to include all features of claims 7 and 9. Certain changes have been made to the original language of claims 7 and 10. However, Applicant respectfully submits that those changes do not diminish the patentability of claim 10 in

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view of the cited art. The objection to claim 10 claim is therefore moot, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

In addition, claims 8 and 11-13 have each been amended to depend from amended claim 10 and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 10.

Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

C. THE TITLE

The Title stands objected-to as not being descriptive. Without acquiescing in the objection, Applicant has amended the Title.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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